AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-27. (Canceled)

28. (New) A method for managing network address translation (NAT) connections over a network, comprising:

storing a plurality of NAT connection data in a data store;

for each stored NAT connection datum, assigning each of a plurality of data structure types to the same stored NAT connection datum, wherein each of the plurality of data structure types are based on at least one of an IP address or a port number;

receiving a request for a NAT connection datum, wherein the request includes an IP address and port number;

automatically determining one of the plurality of data structure types best suited to the NAT connection datum; and

employing the determined data structure type to retrieve the requested NAT connection datum.

29. (New) The method of Claim 27, further comprising:

identifying a key in the request for the NAT connection datum;

dividing the key into segments; and

employing each segment to search one of the plurality of data structures to locate the requested NAT connection datum.

30. (New) A server array controller for managing network connections between a client and a plurality of servers, comprising:

a storage component that stores a plurality of connection data objects in a data store;

a first object retrieval component that employs a first data structure type to retrieve each of the plurality of connection data objects from the data store;

a second object retrieval component that employs a second data structure type to retrieve each of the plurality of connection data objects from the data store;

an interface component that:

receives a first request for a connection data object;

in response to the first request:

determines one of the first object retrieval component or the second object retrieval component to employ for retrieval of the connection data object, and

employs the first object retrieval component to retrieve the connection data object;

receives a second request for the connection data object; and

in response to the second request:

determines the other one of the first object retrieval component or the second object retrieval component to employ for retrieval of the connection data object, and

employs the other object retrieval component to retrieve the connection data object.

31. (New) The server array controller of Claim 30, wherein the determination of one of the first object retrieval component or the second object retrieval component in response to the first request is based on a number of connection data objects requested by the first request.

32. (New) The server array controller of Claim 30, wherein the determination of one of the first object retrieval component or the second object retrieval component in response to the first request is based on whether the first request includes a key identifying the connection data object.

33. (New) The server array controller of Claim 30, wherein the first data structure type is a trie data structure and the second data structure type is a list structure.

34. (New) A server array controller for managing network connections between a client and a plurality of servers, comprising:

first data retrieval means for retrieving each of the plurality of connection data objects by employing a trie data structure;

second data retrieval means for retrieving each of the plurality of connection data objects by employing a different data structure;

storage means for storing a plurality of connection data objects, each of the plurality of connection data objects being accessible by each of the first data retrieval means and the second data retrieval means; and

third data retrieval means for retrieving each of the plurality of connection data objects by selecting one of the first data retrieval means or second data retrieval means.